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| APPLICATION NO.       | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/807,424            | 03/24/2004  | Shougo Sato          | 118202              | 3539             |
| 25944                 | 7590        | 06/05/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC |             |                      | NGO, HOANG X        |                  |
| P.O. BOX 19928        |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320  |             |                      | 2852                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ESC

|                              |                            |                 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b>        |                 |
|                              | SATO, SHOUGO               |                 |
|                              | <b>Applicant's Address</b> | <b>Art Unit</b> |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>            |                 |
|                              | Hoang Ngo                  | 2852            |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed 3/15/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/15/2006 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshika (JP 04-022976).

Hoshika discloses a process cartridge comprising a case 14a (Fig. 1); an image carrier 10 provided at the case wherein the surface of the image carrier being divided into four sections by two perpendicular lines perpendicular to a center of the image carrier; a charger 11 disposed within the case along the surface of the image carrier (Fig. 1) that uniformly charges the surface of the image carrier; wherein only a single charger is used (Fig. 1 shows only one charger 11); a developing member 12 disposed within the case along the surface of the image carrier to supply developing agent to the

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image carrier and wherein the charger is located at a first section and the developing member is located at a second section that is opposite to the first section (Fig. 1 shows the charger 11 to the left of the image carrier (first section) and the developing member to the right of the image carrier (second section)).

Hoshika further discloses a transfer member 15 that is disposed on the case along the surface of the image carrier to transfer the toner image from the surface of the image carrier to a recording medium P and the transfer member is located at a third section between the first section and the second section (Fig. 1 shows the transfer member 15 on the bottom of image carrier 1 (third section)); an opening disposed at a fourth section opposite from the third section (see the opening where the light beam entered from the mirror 22 of the exposure unit 16, Fig. 1); the charger is located closer to the transfer member than the developing member (see Fig. 1); the image carrier and the developing are located along a straight line (Fig. 1); an exposing unit 16 disposed along the surface of the image carrier to emits a light beam onto the surface of the image carrier and is located at the fourth section and is above the process cartridge (Fig. 1); the light beam of the exposing unit is place with a plane parallel to the straight line and passes through the opening (Fig. 1); a supplying device 24 (Fig. 1) for supplying the recording medium P having a feed path parallel to the straight line (Fig. 1); a discharge device 29 (Fig. 1) for discharging the recording medium; the charger 11 is located closer to the transfer member than the developing member (Fig. 1); the charger, the image carrier and the developing member are located along a straight line (Fig. 1).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoshika in view of Sato et al (US 6,385,414).

Hoshika discloses the invention as set forth above but differs from the claimed invention because it does not disclose that the charger is a Scorotron charger.

However, the use of the Scorotron charger type in the image forming apparatus is old and well known in the art as evidence in the Sato et al reference under element 30.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the Scorotron charger as taught by Sato et al directly to the device of Hoshika so that the photosensitive drum can be charged using the convention non-contact type charger.

***Conclusion***

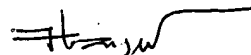
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2138.

The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Hoang Ngo  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2852

Hn  
May 30, 2006